

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/717,587	KALER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tuan A. Vu	2193	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/24/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 22-26 (renum 1-10).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|---|

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the Applicant's response filed 8/24/2006.

As indicated in Applicant's response, claims 1-5 have been amended, and claims 6-10, 15, 27-31 and 34 canceled. Claims 1-5, 22-26 are pending in the office action.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. The application has been amended as follows.

In the SPECIFICATIONS:

A) The paragraphs appearing on page 1, lines 8-13 are amended as follows:

This application is related to the following applications, both of which are filed on the same day and assigned to the same assignee as the present application:

"Versioned Project Data" - serial no. 09/717,645 (~~Atty. Docket No. MSFT-0558~~), now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,978,281, and

"Project Branching" serial no. 09/717,723 (~~Atty. Docket No. MSFT-0557~~), now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,766,334.

These related applications are hereby incorporated by reference herein.

B) The paragraph appearing on page 9, lines 14-20 is amended as follows:

Project data 206, in one embodiment of the invention, includes data related to software defects (i.e. "bugs"), tasks, development milestones, and other issues that are related to a project. Like the files maintained by versioned file system 208, the project data 206 can be versioned. Further details on the versioning of project data are provided in the U.S. Patent

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Application entitled "Versioned Project Data", serial number 09/717,645, (~~Atty. Docket No. MSFT-0558~~), now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,978,281, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. Claims 1-5, and 22-26 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

As has been identified in the previous Office Action, the prior art taken separately or jointly does not suggest or teach the following method comprising:

adding an association of a *project management object* (PMO) to the set of associated PMOs comprising creating a *link set content data structure* (LSCS) in conjunction with a *link set data structure* (LSDS), the LSDS corresponding to the set of associated PMOs;

setting a *link set reference field* (LSRF) of the LSCS to a value that refers to a LSDS corresponding to the set of associated PMOs;

setting a *object reference field* in the LSCS to refer to the above project management object (PMO); and setting a start time field in the LSCS to represent a start (or end) time.

Leblang, USPN: 5,649,200, does not clearly teach adding a project management object to the set of PMOs; but merely teaches retrieve or derive configuration record that refers to other object (Leblang's derived objects); and as a whole Leblang does not teach:

(i) set up to 2 distinct structures, namely, the LSCS and LSDS, the LSDS corresponding to a particular set of PMOs; so that

(ii) one field (LSRF) of the LSCS is set to a value referring to the LSDS; (iii) one other field of the LSCS set to a time value, and

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(iv) another field (ORF) of the LSCS referring to ONE particular PMO, the one to be added to the above set of PMOs.

Leblang does not clearly teach a one PMO to be added and referred by one ORF in a LSCS, nor does Leblang teach a LSDS (LSDS being distinct from a LSCS), the LSDS to correspond to a set of associated PMOs to which the one PMO association is to be added, such adding being implemented via setting fields in the LSCS according to the steps (ii) to (iv) from above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan A Vu whose telephone number is (272) 272-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM-4:30PM/Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Kakali Chaki can be reached on (571)272-3719.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-3735 (for non-official correspondence – please consult Examiner before using) or 571-273-8300 (for official correspondence) or redirected to customer service at 571-272-3609.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

VAT
September 19, 2006


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